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of the proper selection of material, but the fruit of his long experience in handling high-school pupils. This tells especially in the methods of presenting the work. While the book is essentially a course of quantitative experiments, it will not lack interest for the average pupil; for the simplicity of the apparatus and the explicitness of the instructions make the work of the experiments comparatively easy. The qualitative character is brought out in the full and clear discussions.

There are twenty tables of useful numbers, formulae, and physical constants in the Appendix.

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History of Chemistry. Vol. I. From the Earliest Times to the Middle of the Nineteenth Century. By SIR EDWARD THORPE. New York: Putnam, 1909. Pp. xii+195. \$0.75.

This little volume contains a concise history of chemistry during the period named in the title. The separate chapters deal with the leading phases in the history of the science, such as the chemical philosophy of the ancients, alchemy, iatrochemistry, the atomic theory, the beginnings of electrochemistry, the foundations of organic chemistry, and the rise of physical chemistry. Within each chapter the treatment is largely biographical.

Many specific discoveries are mentioned, yet they are introduced with such skill that there is no feeling of overcrowding. The reader does not feel that he is wading through history, but rather that he is looking at a picture, and noting the details while keeping the whole continuously in view. The general perspective is preserved in a marvelous way, and the book constitutes by far the best brief history of chemistry in existence. Several admirable portraits, a bibliography, and an index are included.

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